

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7618

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJ: BOMBS IN DUBLIN

REF: DUBLIN 304

1. SEVEN STORES AND THE SHELBOURNE HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN DUBLIN WERE BOMBED IN THE EARLY EVENING OF FEBRUARY 13. THE STORE BOMBS WERE SMALL INCENDIARY DEVICES, AND CAUSED LITTLE DAMAGE. IN ALL, 14 FIREBOMBS WERE PLANTED, BUT NOT ALL IGNITED. THE SHELBOURNE WAS BOMBED BY AN ESTIMATED 25 LB. BOMB, WHICH CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO THE MAIN STAIRWAY AREA. THERE WERE TELEPHONED WARNINGS IN ALL THESE INCIDENTS AND NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. ALL OF THE STORES REOPENED THE NEXT DAY FOR BUSINESS AND THE SHELBOURNE WAS REOPENED BY FEBRUARY 15.

2. THE TELEPHONE CALL TO THE SHELBOURNE SAID THAT THE BOMB WAS "IN RETALIATION FOR THE DEATH OF FRANK STAGG." MOST DUBLINERS WE HAVE TALKED TO BELIEVE THE BOMBS WERE SET BY PROTESTANT LOYALISTS RATHER THAN THE PROVISIONAL IRA. PROVO SINN FEIN PRESIDENT RUARI O BRADAIGH HAS HOTLY DENIED ANY IRA IMPLICATION. HOWEVER, ONE OF OUR WELL-INFORMED CONTACTS IN THE GOI TOLD US THAT IT WAS "MORE THAN LIKELY" THE PROVO IRA, THOUGH THE POLICE AS YET HAVE NO LEADS.

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THE PROVOS HELD A RALLY SHORTLY AFTER THE BOMBINGS (SEE REFTEL).

ONE PAPER HAS SAID THE BOMBS WERE PLANTED BY AN IRA SPLINTER GROUP CALLED THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ACTION GROUP.

3. THERE IS STILL CONFUSION HERE OVER THE DETAILS OF THE STAGG FUNERAL. TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS ANNOUNCED BY THE PROVO SINN FEIN ARE THAT THE BODY WOULD BE FLOWN TO DUBLIN IN A CHARTERED AIRCRAFT (SINCE THE SCHEDULED AIRLINES HAVE APPARENTLY REFUSED TO TAKE IT). A DAY OR SO LATER IT WOULD BE TAKEN, WITH CEREMONY, TO HOLLYMOUNT IN COUNTY MAYO FOR A "MILITARY STYLE" FUNERAL. THE FUNERAL WOULD PRESUMABLY TAKE PLACE NEXT WEEKEND IN ORDER TO GET THE BEST TURNOUT. THE IRISH JUSTICE MINISTER HAS NOT YET REVEALED WHETHER THE GOI WILL LET THIS SHOW TAKE PLACE. IT IS A TOUGH DECISION AS THE IRISH HAVE STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT FUNERALS AND THERE WOULD BE MUCH OBJECTION FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC IF STAGG IS NOT BURIED AS BOTH HE AND HIS FAMILY WISHED.

4. REACTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC TO STAGG'S DEATH HAVE BEEN MIXED, BUT MOST SEE HIM AS THE IDEALISTIC, MISGUIDED VICTIM OF HIS LEADERS, THE PROVOS. VERY FEW ARE BLAMING THE BRITISH FOR HIS DEATH. OPPOSITION LEADER LYNCH SUMMARIZED THE GENERAL FEELING AS HE TALKED ABOUT "THE SAD AND TRAGIC RECENT HUNGER-STRIKE DEATH. THE LIFE OF THAT YOUNG MAN COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED BY A WORD FROM THOSE WHO CLAIM TO BE HIS LEADERS. THESE MEN ARE ONLY TOO WILLING TO SACRIFICE THE LIVES OF THEIR YOUNG SUBORDINATES... IN THE PURSUIT OF AN OBJECTIVE WHICH BY THEIR EVIL DEEDS THEY DESECRATE." RENDAHL

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